Involvement of local MPs in implementation of Rural Development Schemes

†385. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the approval and advice of local MPs are not sought in implementation of various Centrally sponsored Rural Development Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the implementation of various Centrally sponsored Rural Development Schemes with approval and advice of local MPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the Rural Development Schemes are implemented through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/2illa Parishads. The Members of Parliament are the Members of the Governing body of DRDAs. The Governing body of the DRDA provides policy directions to the DRDA as may be necessary from time to time, approve the Annual Plan and also review and monitor the implementation of different programmes. The Governing body of DRDA is required to meet once in a quarter.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development had constituted the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees to ensure quality expenditure and monitor the implementation of Rural Development Schemes at District level under the Chairmanship of the local Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

Impact of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the implementation of PMGSY

†386. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are coming in the way of the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana especially in Himachal Pradesh; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove the said obstacle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) If forest land is required for the roadway width for a road, provisions for Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are attracted and permission is required to be obtained.

(b) All State Governments have been advised on 23rd June, 2003 to identify all cases where Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is likely to be involved well in advance and move proposals for clearance under the Act. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has intimated that concerted effort is being made by the State Public Works Department and Forest Department to process cases under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and such cases are being pursued vigorously with the Environment and Forest Ministry.

Increase in textile quota

387. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of textile quota is likely to be increased for the third world in the light of some more East European countries being inducted in the E.U.

(b) if so, how much India is going to be benefited from the increase in the textile quota;

(c) whether the Ministry is thinking of increasing the quota for 2004; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Consequent on the ten quotafree countries joining the European Union (EU) the European Commission has increased the quota levels for restricted categories *inter-alia* for India with effect from 1 st May 2004. The details of India's original EU quota levels for 2004, additional quotas, and the revised quota levels are given below:—